

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DJIBOU 01274 290743Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 H-01 EB-08 CAB-02 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00  
L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 AID-05 /072 W  
-----001333 292019Z /64

R 290530Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1192  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBURG  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 1274

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAIR, EPAP, DJUG  
SUBJ: UGANDA COFFEE FLIGHTS

REF; STATE 217780 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY UNABLE COMMENT ON SUPPOSED LEASE 707  
FROM AERO TRANSPORT DE ESPANA (REFTEL) FOR TRANSPORT  
UGANDAN COFFEE. HOWEVER, ROUND-THE-CLOCK SHUTTLE  
OF COFFEE FROM ENTEBBE TO DJIBOUTI CONTINUES.  
ACCORDING TO LOCAL AIRLINE SOURCES, TWO AIRCRAFT  
NOW MAKING UP TO THREE FLIGHTS A DAY FOR TOTAL  
200 TONS CARRIAGE. FULL FACTS OWNERSHIP AND/OR  
LEASING ARRANGEMENTS THESE AIRCRAFT NOW BEING  
DEVELOPED. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL AMERICANS  
INVOLVED IN THE BUSINESS AS RECENTLY AS MID-JULY.  
HOWEVER, THEY ARE KEEPING A VERY LOW PROFILE IF THEY  
ARE STILL AROUND.

2. FRENCH SOURCES REPORT DJIBOUTIAN PRIVATE  
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INITIATIVE TO GET A PIECE OF THE ACTION. THIS MOVE  
BEING LED BY IDRIS OMAR GUELLE, A BROTHER OF THE  
PRESIDENT'S CHEF DE CABINET (AND SECRET POLICE CHIEF)  
ISMAEL OMAR GUELLE. THE BROTHERS BELONG TO THE  
MAMASSAN FRACTION OF THE ISSA ETHNIC GROUP, TO  
WHICH THE PRESIDENT ALSO BELONGS. UNDER IDRIS OMAR  
GUELLE, GROUP HAS FORMED A NEW AIRLINE, "BAB EL MANDEB

AIRWAYS" WHICH WILL ALLEGEDLY USE AIRCRAFT SECURED THROUGH WET-LEASE FROM LUXAIR, A LUXEMBURG-BASED CARGO LINE.

3. IDRIS OMAR GUELLE APPROACHED THE EMBASSY SEVERAL MONTHS AGO INQUIRING ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF EX-IM FINANCING FOR FORMATION OF A LOCAL AIRLINE. CHARGE INFORMED HIM AT TIME THAT THERE SEEMED LITTLE REASON PURSUE SUCH A NOTION WHEN MAJOR SOURCE OF INCOME FOR AIRLINE WOULD BE THROUGH TRANSPORT UGANDA COFFEE. OBVIOUSLY, THE NOTION HAS NOW FLOWERED AND DJIBOUTI GROUP APPARENTLY HAS FIRM CONTRACT WITH UGANDA GOVERNMENT FOR TRANSPORTATION OF COFFEE.

4. LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORTS THAT TOTAL

LOADINGS FROM DJIBOUTI PORT DURING FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1978 (JAN.-JULY) ARE 3,375 METRIC TONS. BECAUSE RAILWAY REOPENING HAS NOT YET LED TO ANY COFFEE FROM HIGHLANDS OF ETHIOPIA, WE MUST ASSUME THAT ALL COFFEE SHIPPED IN 1978 WAS FROM UGANDA.

CLARKE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COFFEE, CARGO HANDLING, TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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